



CITY OF
LAS VEGAS
NEW MEXICO

2021

Drinking Water Quality Report

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INTRODUCTION

2021 City of Las Vegas Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Las Vegas is delighted to present to you this year's Drinking Water Quality Report also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This report is required to be provided to all consumers annually by the Safe Drinking Water Act and implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency. In this report we will provide details about the source of our water, the treatment process, what our water contains and how it compares to federal standards set by regulatory agencies.



Is my water safe?

City of Las Vegas water exceeds standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Last year we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and all contaminants detected were below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? City of Las Vegas residents are more conservative on their water consumption. Las Vegas households use approximately 200 gallons of water per day and 75 gallons per person per day. Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!



CITY OF LAS VEGAS WATER SYSTEM

CITY OF LAS VEGAS WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM

The primary water source for the City of Las Vegas drinking water is surface water acquired from the Gallinas River and stored in Storrie Lake, Peterson and Bradner Reservoirs. Bradner Reservoir had been offline since 2014 for rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of the embankments and spillway is complete and filling began on August 2019. Permit is dependent on maintaining final hold elevation. An alternate source of water, for approximately 10% of the city's needs, is the Taylor Well Field. This water is used sparingly to avoid impacts to the aquifer. Due to maintenance and repairs on well field equipment and minimizing impacts to the aquifer, groundwater was not pumped into the city's distribution system in 2021.



TREATING OUR DRINKING WATER

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation contributes to the removal of dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of sodium hypochlorite is the disinfectant used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Las Vegas Utility Advisory Committee and City Council meet regularly to discuss topics critical to our water system. Contact the City Clerks Office at (505) 454-1401 for information on dates and times these meetings are held. Information is also available online at www.lasvegasnm.gov. Consider volunteering with local watershed groups, which can be found on EPA's Adopt a Watershed network.



DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

The purpose of a cross connection survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can dis-



cuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough
- Wells

SOURCEWATER



SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

For more information about contaminants, testing methods, potential health and steps you can take to minimize exposure contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or visit their www.epa.gov/safewater. More information on the City of Las Vegas Public Water Supply can be obtained online at www.dww.water.nm.env.nm.gov or obtaining a copy of the Source Water Assessment conducted by contacting David Torres at (505) 841-5306 or david.torres@state.nm.us or by calling the Utilities Department at (505) 454-3832.



WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or

through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity

The substances that can be picked up in the flowing water include microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants can also be added to the raw water. Examples are salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

In addition, organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems can also end up in raw water.

Finally, radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities can be picked up in raw source water.

REGULATION OF DRINKING WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.





TESTING FOR WATER QUALITY

IS THERE LEAD IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Las Vegas transmission and main water lines are made of steel, cast iron, ductile iron, PVC (C900) or concrete cylinder pipe. City of Las Vegas is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components on the business or homeowners side of the meter.

HEALTH EFFECTS

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

METHODS TO LIMIT LEAD EXPOSURE

- Run your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking
- Use Cold water
- Remove and Clean faucet screen (aerator) monthly
- Hire a licensed plumber to identify and replace lead service lines or plumbing fixtures.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The water quality table page lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.



In the water quality table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions.

Unit Descriptions

TERM	DEFINITION
ug/L	Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Drinking Water Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances & Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Detect in your water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (Cl ₂)	4	4	1.1	0.5	1.1	2020	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	16.3	19.6	20.6	2021	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	46.1	66.8	90.2	2021	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05	0.05	0.05	2020	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.38	0.38	0.38	2020	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	99	NA	NA	2021	NO	Soil Runoff
99% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.35. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.27	0.27	0.27	2020	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	1	1	1	2020	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Copper—Action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.036	2020	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead—Action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.6	2020	1	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

MONITORING AND REPORTING OF COMPLIANCE DATA VIOLATIONS

Our water system violated drinking water requirements in 2021. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the 3rd quarter of 2021 we collected samples outside the compliance monitoring period for disinfection by products (Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. *

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What happened and what is being done?

The 3rd quarter water samples for the above contaminants needed to be collected in August and were collected one month earlier, in July. The issue has been addressed by creating a sampling calendar and having two person verification. The 4th quarter sample was collected properly.

Contaminant	Sample Name	Address	Frequency	Compliance Period
Total Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids	DBP-1	Luna CC - Nursing BLDG	Quarterly	3Q2021
Total Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids	HAA5-1	Storrie Lake SP Bathroom	Quarterly	3Q2021
Total Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids	TTHM-1	Alta Vista Med Hospital	Quarterly	3Q2021
Total Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids	TTHM-2	Mikes Precision	Quarterly	3Q2021



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THANK YOU!

The City of Las Vegas Water Treatment Division would like to thank the community for their efforts to conserve our precious water resources

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